

Sample article for organizations to use to reach customers

Customize and provide the following article on your website to educate your customers on tax benefits available to people searching for jobs.

Looking for a job? You may be able to deduct the cost of your job search on your tax return!

If you're one of the many people searching for a job right now, you may be able to deduct some of your expenses — including writing résumés and attending career fairs — on your tax return. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Your expenses must be spent on a job search in your *current occupation*. You may not deduct expenses incurred while looking for a job in a new occupation.
- You can deduct the fees you pay for employment and outplacement agencies while looking for a job.

NOTE: If your employer pays you back in a later year for these fees, you must include the amount in your gross income *up to the amount of your tax benefit in the earlier year*.

- You can deduct amounts you spend for preparing and mailing copies of a résumé to prospective employers.
- If you travel to an area to look for a new job, you may be able to deduct travel expenses to and from the area. You can deduct the travel expenses only if the trip is primarily to look for a new job.

NOTE: The amount of time you spend on personal activity compared to the amount of time you spend looking for work is important in determining whether the trip is primarily personal or primarily to look for a new job.

- You cannot deduct job search expenses if there was a substantial break between the end of your last job and the time you begin looking for a new one.
- You cannot deduct job search expenses if you are looking for a job for the first time.

For more information about job search expenses, read IRS [Publication 529, Miscellaneous Deductions](#). This publication is available at the IRS website, [IRS.gov](#), or by calling 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676).

NOTE TO EDITOR: Below are links to IRS publications describing the tax benefits available to people searching for jobs.

- Publication 529, [Miscellaneous Deductions](#)
- Tax Topic 508, [Miscellaneous Expenses](#)
- Tax Topic 511, [Business Travel Expenses](#)